

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 MCT-01 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CCO-00 DHA-02 /072 W  
-----181451Z 109355 /50

O R 181322Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3368  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 234  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 1191

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, LE, ASEC, PINS  
SUBJECT: JUNBLATT ASSASSINATION - SITUATION MARCH 18

REF: BEIRUT 1179 (DTG 171111Z MAR 77)

1. SUMMARY: JUNBLATT'S FUNERAL TOOK PLACE  
AFTERNOON OF MARCH 17. THERE HAS BEEN AN ORGY OF  
KILLING IN CHRISTIAN VILLAGES IN THE CHOUF BY THEIR  
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DRUZE NEIGHBORS, DESPITE MASSIVE REINFORCEMENT OF  
ASF IN THE AREA. PEACEFUL COHABITATION OF THE TWO  
SECTS IN THE CHOUF MAY HAVE BEEN SET BACK FOR YEARS,  
IF NOT IRRETRIEVABLY DESTROYED. JUNBLATT'S SON  
AND SUCCESSOR, WALID, PLAYING MATURE AND PEACE-  
MAKING ROLE. A FEW KILLINGS IN BEIRUT, ALONG WITH  
SPORADIC RIFLE FIRE AND GRENADE-THROWING DURING

NIGHT OF MARCH 17-18. DESPITE CONTINUED TENSION, GOL AND ASF LEADERSHIP AS OF MARCH 18 BELIEVE WORST HAS NOW PASSED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FUNERAL. AMIDST UNIQUELY DRUZE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE, KAMAL JUNBLATT, HIS DRIVER, AND BODYGUARD WERE INTERRED AT MOUKTHARA AFTERNOON OF MARCH 17. AT LEAST 10,000 PERSONS (SOME REPORTS GO AS HIGH AS 50,000), LARGELY DRUZE AND POLITICAL SUPPORTERS, ATTENDED. PREMIER HOSS REPRESENTED THE GOL AND BESTOWED POSTHUMOUSLY ON JUNBLATT THE NATIONAL ORDER OF THE CEDAR ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT SARKIS. A NUMBER OF ARAB AMBASSADORS AND A FEW WESTERN AMBASSADORS ATTENDED, AS WELL AS EGYPTIAN VICE PREMIER HAFEZ GHANEM. CONDOLENCES CONTINUE TO FLOW IN FROM LEBANESE LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF ALL PERSUASIONS AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF FOREIGN LEADERS.

3. BLOOD IN THE CHOUF. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ASF LIAISON STAFF SOURCES AND THE GOL GENDARMERIE THAT AS MANY AS 150 CHRISTIAN VILLAGERS IN THE CHOUF, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THEIR DRUZE NEIGHBORS SINCE JUNBLATT WAS ASSASSINATED, AND THAT MORE BODIES ARE BEING FOUND IN OUTLYING VILLAGES. ONE MARONITE CHURCH WAS DYNAMITED. MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE FLED MIXED CHRISTIAN-DRUZE VILLAGES FOR THE VILLAGE OF DEIR EL QAMAR, WHICH HAS TAKEN ON THE APPEARANCES OF A CHRISTIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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BASTION UNDER SEIGE. PURSUANT TO DEMANDS BY RIGHTIST LEADERS, PARTICULARLY CAMILLE CHAMOUN, PRESIDENT SARKIS DIRECTED ASF COMMANDER COL. AL HAJJ TO REINFORCE TROOPS IN THE CHOUF. WE UNDERSTAND SOME 4,000 ADDITIONAL TROOPS MOVED INTO THE AREA ON MARCH 17, PARTICULARLY AT DEIR EL QAMAR AND BEIT EL DINE, BUT THEY DID NOT COMPLETE THEIR DEPLOYMENT UNTIL LATE IN THE DAY, TOO LATE TO PREVENT THE MASSACRE.

4. DRUZE-CHRISTIAN COOPERATION SET BACK.

IRONICALLY, ON MORNING MARCH 15, MOHAMMAD ABU SHAQRA, SHEIHK AQL OF DRUZES, HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT CHRISTIANS COULD LIVE SAFELY IN DRUZE AREAS. HE GUARANTEED IT. THE CHANCES FOR CHRISTIAN-DRUZE RECONCILIATION HAVE NOW BEEN SERIOUSLY--IF NOT IRRETRIEVABLY--UNDERMINED. EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NO FURTHER PUBLIC EVIDENCE ON WHO INSTIGATED OR CARRIED OUT THE ASSASSINATION OF JUNBLATT, DRUZES

ARE BLAMING CHRISTIANS. CHRISTIAN COUNTER-REPRISALS  
ALMOST SURELY WILL FOLLOW, ALTHOUGH OUR ONLY  
INFORMATION SO FAR IS A REPORT THAT SEVERAL DRUZE  
HOMES IN CHRISTIAN BEIRUT SUBURB OF AIN EL RUMANNEH  
HAVE BEEN BLOWN UP BY CHRISTIANS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 1191

5. LIMITED PROBLEMS IN BEIRUT. PERHAPS TEN  
CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN WEST BEIRUT, AND THERE  
WERE MACHINE-GUN FIRE AND GRENADE EXPLOSIONS TO  
BE HEARD THE NIGHT OF MARCH 17-18. A SINGLE MORTAR  
ROUND HIT THE HAMRA DISTRICT AT 2315 MARCH 17, THE  
FIRST INCIDENT OF INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING IN BEIRUT  
SINCE THE SYRIAN OCCUPATION IN NOVEMBER. ON MARCH 18  
TENSIONS ARE PARTICULARLY HIGH IN THE AREA OF THE  
DRUZE CENTER ON RUE VERDUN. NEVERTHELESS, ASF

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LIAISON STAFF AS OF EARLY MARCH 18 IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE WORST HAS PASSED AND, OTHER THAN CONTINUING THE INTENSIFIED PATROLLING AND ROAD-BLOCK ACTIVITY BEGUN MARCH 16, PLANS NO ADDITIONAL MILITARY MEASURES AT THIS TIME. THE GOL DOES NOT PLAN TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMS ME THAT GOL THINKS IMMEDIATE TROUBLES ARE OVER BUT IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ASSASSINATIONS OF OTHER LEADERS, WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPLOSIVE EFFECT.

6. WALID. KAMAL JUNBLATT'S 27-YEAR-OLD SON WALID, WEARING WESTERN CLOTHES IN DISHEVELED FASHION (SIGNIFYING MOURNING, BUT GIVING HIM A REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE TO THE USUAL APPEARANCE OF HIS FATHER) PLAYED THE LEADING ROLE IN THE OBSEQUIES. HE HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE SHEIKH AQL OF DRUZES AS WELL AS EMIR FAYSAL ARSLAN (SON OF THE LEADING YAZBAKI DRUZE) AS SUCCESSOR TO HIS FATHER AS HEAD OF THE JUNBLATT FAMILY, HENCE THE PARAMOUNT DRUZE IN LEBANON. FIRST INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE WILL PLAY A RESPONSIBLE, MODERATING ROLE, BEGINNING WITH EFFORTS TO CALM THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION (SEPTEL WILL FOLLOW). PIERRE GEMAYEL PRAISED HIS "COURAGE AND WISDOM IN DEALING WITH THE REPERCUSSIONS OF HIS FATHER'S ASSASSINATION."

7. WHO DID IT? DESPITE INTENSIVE GOL EFFORTS, NO FURTHER INFORMATION HAS EMERGED ON WHO SHOT JUNBLATT, OR WHY. THERE IS MUCH LOCAL SPECULATION THAT IT WAS SYRIAN-INSTIGATED, BUT WHOEVER DID IT MUST HAVE HAD HELP FROM PEOPLE IN THE CHOUF, AND PERHAPS FROM SOMEONE IN JUNBLATT'S HOUSEHOLD.  
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## Message Attributes

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